IN THE CLAIMS:

Applicants have requested amendment to claims 1, 14-16, 18, 20 and 22, a copy of each of these claims being presented herein. A marked-up version of these claims entitled "Version With Markings Showing Changes Made" indicating insertions and deletions is included as an attachment to this Amendment.

Please amend claims 1, 14-16, 18, 20 and 22 as follows.

1. (Twice Amended) An information distributing method for distributing information subjected to billing, characterized in that an amount of money billed to a user each subsequent time said information is distributed to said user is determined depending on the number of times that said information has previously been distributed to each user within a predetermined time period.

14. (Twice Amended) An information distributing method for distributing information subjected to billing, characterized in that an amount of money billed to a user each subsequent time said information is distributed to said user is determined in a composite manner depending on respective numbers of times that said information has previously been distributed to each user in a plurality of set terms.

15. (Twice Amended) An information distributing method for distributing information subjected to billing, characterized in that a receiver selects at least one term of a plurality of set terms and an amount of money billed to a user each subsequent time said information is distributed to said user is determined depending on the number of times that said information has previously been distributed to each user in said selected term.

16. (Twice Amended) An information distributing method for distributing information subjected to billing, comprising:

an information distributing means for distributing said information to a user; and

a transaction means comprised of a means for counting the number of times said information is previously distributed to each user and a means for controlling a billing system for billing for a next subsequent distribution depending on the number of previous distributions counted.

18. (Twice Amended) A transaction method to control a billing system for information to be distributed, comprising the steps of:

counting a number of previous distributions of said information to each user; and

controlling a billing information for billing for a next subsequent distribution depending on a counted number of previous distributions.

20. (Twice Amended) A transaction system to control a billing system for information to be distributed, comprising:

a means for counting a number of previous distributions of said information to each user; and

a means for controlling a billing information for billing for a next subsequent distribution depending on a counted number of previous distributions.

22. (Amended) A transaction method to control a billing system for information to be distributed, comprising the steps of:

counting the number of times that a content is previously distributed to each user during a predetermined time period, each user being billed at the time of distribution for an amount of money of said content;

changing said amount of money to be billed to each user for a next subsequent distribution of said content based on the result of counting of said previous distributions; and

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